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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,471	01/20/2000	Neelakantan Sundaresan	AM9-99-0201	4485

7590 08/15/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/488,471	SUNDARESAN, NEELAKANTAN	
	Examiner Tam V Nguyen	Art Unit 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in this action. Claims 1-24 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the amendment dated 06/03/02.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The applicant argued that Bowman design may not be too reliable because it may depend on advertising, strategic business alliances, or creative naming of a site.

In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees with the argument above because the entire Bowman's specification does not mention anything about depend on advertising, strategic business alliances, or creative naming of a site.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vig (US 6038554) in view of Bowman et al. (US 6185558B1).

Re claims 1, 9, and 17, Vig discloses an off line ranking system for receiving rating data compiled from an off-line source based on interactive criteria that include

feedback from users about businesses of interest to a particular user, regardless of ranking by the particular user, (Col. 6, lines 35-col. 7, lines 25, Col. 59, lines 30-50, and Col. 65, lines 41-Col. 66, lines 5); wherein the rating data correlates higher quality search matches to higher business satisfaction rating, (Col. 54, lines 36-Col. 55, lines 44); and wherein the off-line ranking system indexes the rating data, (Col. 59, lines 30-50); a ranking repository for storing the rating data indexed by the off line ranking system, (Col. 59, lines 30-50 and Col. 65, lines 41-Col. 66, lines 5).

Vig does not clearly show a result sorter for sorting query results generated by the search engine, based on the rating data from the ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches.

Bowman teaches the facility displays the items identified in the query result in accordance with the ranking values generated for the items in step 806. Step 808 preferably involves sorting the items in the query result in decreasing order of the ranking values, and/or subsetting the items in the query result to include only those items above a threshold ranking value, or only a predetermined number of items having the highest ranking values, (Col. 9, lines 56-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Vig by including the facility displays the items identified in the query result in accordance with the ranking values generated for the items in step 806. Step 808 preferably involves sorting the items in the query result in decreasing order of the ranking values, and/or subsetting the items in the query result to include only those items above a threshold ranking value, or only a predetermined number of items having the highest ranking

values, as taught by Bowman, so the user can generate a ranking value for a particular item in a query result, the facility combines the rating scores corresponding to that item and the terms of the query, (Col. 2, lines 40-43).

Re claims 2, 10, and 18, Vig further discloses a search results transformer that converts the ranked matches to a user browsable form, (Col. 4, lines 2-14).

Re claims 3, 11, and 19, Bowman further discloses an indexing engine that indexes web documents to generate indexed data, (Col. 4, lines 2-14).

Re claims 4, 12, and 20, Vig further discloses a metadata repository for storing web documents that have been downloaded off-line, (Col. 6, lines 35-Col. 7, lines 25).

Re claims 5, 13, and 21, Bowman further discloses a query transformer which, when prompted by a query, applies a query request to the indexed data and generates the query results, (Col. 4, lines 2-36 and Col. 5, lines 20-39).

Re claims 6, 14, and 22, Bowman further discloses the on-line source includes an on-line feedback with annotations, (Col. 7, lines 28-Col. 8, lines 20).

Re claims 7, 15, and 23, Vig further discloses the off-line source includes any one or more of a questionnaire, a survey, or a web based rating service, (Col. 54, lines 36-Col. 55, lines 44).

Re claims 8, 16, and 24, Vig further discloses the interactive criteria assess the quality of a business in terms of any one or more of: customer satisfaction, professionalism, cost, and ease of use of a product or service, (Col. 54, lines 36-Col. 55, lines 44).

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.

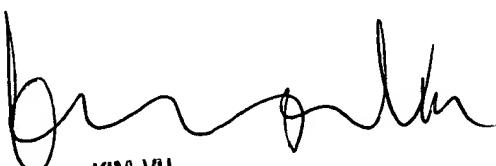
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

TV:tv

08/08/02



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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